MR. K. GEORGE (*Ag. Chief Secretary to Government*) : Government consider the reduction of expenditure on the appointment of experts in the Agricultural Department and the application of any such saving to the reduction of land tax, as proposed, to be neither feasible nor desirable.

MR. G. RAMAN MENON (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*) : Will the Government be pleased to state whether they consider that the present expenditure on the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries is productive of adequate benefit to the agricultural population and the fishing population ?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Ag. Chief Secretary to Government*) : It is productive of great benefit. But it is not clear what he means by adequate benefit.

MR. G. RAMAN MENON (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*) : Adequate to the expenditure incurred. Has it in any way improved the lot of the people ?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Ag. Chief Secretary to Government*) : It has improved the lot considerably.

Reduction of Expenditure on the Public Works Department.

164. **MR. G. RAMAN MENON** (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*) : With a view to make the amount now spent on the Public Works Department productive of more benefit to the people, will the Government be pleased to reduce the expenditure on the appointments of Engineers, Officers and their establishments in the Public Works Department by 50 per cent. and utilise the proceeds for organising and making grants to non-official agencies for the construction and supervision of works of public utility, such as roads, irrigation channels, etc. ?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Ag. Chief Secretary to Government*) : The answer to question No. 163 applies also to this, *mutatis mutandis*.

Unsatisfactory Detection of Crimes by Police.

165. **MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI** (*Neyyattinkara*) : (*a*) Are the Government aware of the steady fall in the percentage of successful detection of crimes and recovery of stolen property by the Police authorities ; and

(*b*) if so, will the Government be pleased to state what action they propose to take to improve the situation ?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Ag. Chief Secretary to Government*) : (*a*) The answer is in the affirmative.

(*b*) To judge the work of the Police, merely by statistics of successful detection of crimes and recovery of stolen property, is likely to have a demoralising effect, and in the interests of honest working in the department, a high percentage has not been demanded. Government see no reason for a reversal of this policy. They have, however, asked the Commissioner of Police to pay due attention to the quality of work

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